

# SNAPSHOT

OFFICE OF WORK & FAMILY LIFE

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

1ST QUARTER 2007

## FOCUS ON... AFTERSCHOOL

The Snapshot edition for the 1st Quarter, 2007, has a close-up look at afterschool programs in Utah. The Office of Work & Family Life/Office of Child Care (WFL/OCC) contracted BBC Research & Consulting (BBC) and Garner Insight to assess the need for afterschool programs for Utah's children who are kindergarten age through 12 years old. The study was conducted to learn how Utah's families use afterschool child care. That information was used to analyze the supply of and demand for additional afterschool programs statewide and at the regional level. This issue of Snapshot includes some of the key findings from the study.

### Do Afterschool Youth Programs Matter?

YES! Recent research into how school-age children occupy time when they are out of school has demonstrated far-reaching benefits of participation in afterschool programs. On the flip side, the research also shows that there are serious public costs associated with the lack of programs for youth when they are out of school.

For example, a recent study prepared by the nonprofit organization *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids* reports that more juvenile crimes are committed during the hours after school ends and before parents return home from work—approximately 3 to 6 p.m.—than in any other time during a 24 hour period. In addition to committing crimes, during these afterschool hours, children are also more likely to become victims of crime, be in or cause a car crash, be killed by household or other accidents, get hooked on cigarettes and/or experiment with dangerous drugs.<sup>1</sup> The study also reports that afterschool programs have been proven to boost school success and high school graduation. All of these benefits help kids become more productive, caring and economically strong citizens. As a result of these benefits to the children, investment in afterschool programs saves taxpayers money.

Other benefits include character building and reduction of obesity. Many afterschool programs involve recreational activities that give children the exercise they need. Many other programs involve community service and self-esteem building activities, teaching children to be respectful of others, be committed to their community, and provide them with the values and habits that help them succeed.<sup>2</sup>

The Afterschool Alliance sums up the research best: “Afterschool programs...provide kids with academic support that inspires them to learn. It helps keep them safe and healthy during the afternoon hours when juvenile crime rates soar, and constructively engaged when they might otherwise be getting into trouble on the streets, or perhaps taking drugs, joining gangs or engaging in other inappropriate behaviors.”<sup>3</sup>

#### What does “Afterschool” care mean?

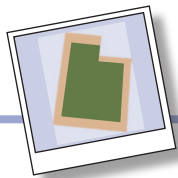
“Afterschool” care is defined as care that is needed for any out-of-school time—including before school, after school, and during summer time and holidays when school is not in session.

This definition of afterschool care is intentionally broad, since kids need care whenever they are not in school, not just “after” school.

<sup>1</sup> *America's After-School Choice: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime, or Youth Enrichment and Achievement*, published by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, [www.fightcrime.org](http://www.fightcrime.org), 2000.

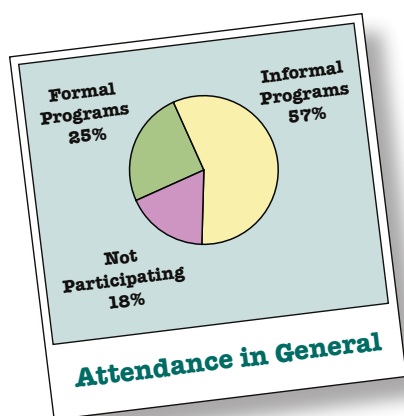
<sup>2</sup> *Afterschool Alert, Issue Brief No. 14*, published by the Afterschool Alliance, July 2003.

<sup>3</sup> *Afterschool Advocate*, published by Afterschool Alliance, Volume 7, Issue 4, May 22, 2006.



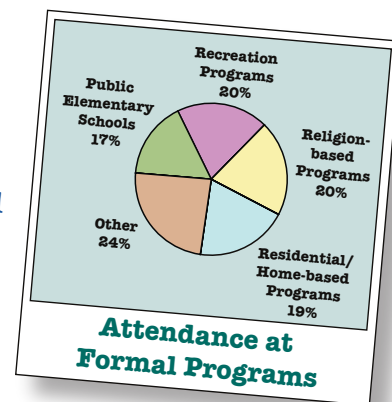
## In the Viewfinder

For the purposes of the study, afterschool programs were divided into two general types: 1) formal programs, which includes regularly scheduled, structured afterschool programs with set hours of care; and 2) informal programs, which include lessons, clubs, and religious activities offered on different days at different times of day.



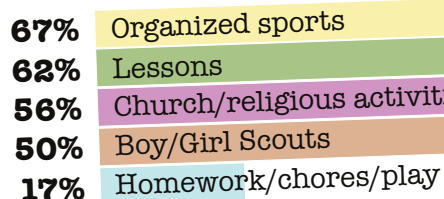
What types of programs are Utah's children attending?

Where did the 79,500 children who participated in a formal program attend?



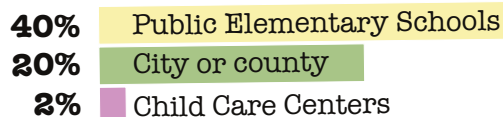
In what kinds of informal activities did the 184,200 children participate?

### Informal Activities



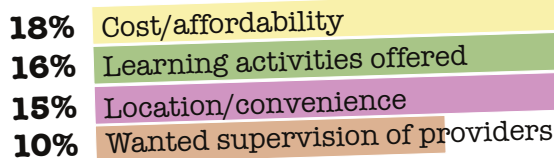
Who should provide afterschool care?

### Parents say:



Why did parents choose the afterschool programs they did?

### Reasons



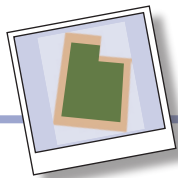
## FUTURE SNAPSHOTS IN THIS SERIES

Utah's Early Learning Guidelines . . . . .	(2nd Quarter 2007)
The Baby Steps Program . . . . .	(3rd Quarter 2007)
2007 Office of Child Care Annual Report . . . . .	(4th Quarter 2007)

**SNAPSHOT** is a publication of the Utah Department of Workforce Services' Office of Work & Family Life. DWS Executive Director: Tani Pack Downing; Office of Work & Family Life Director: Lynette Rasmussen; Snapshot Writer/Editor: Michael Britton; Design: Winston Inoway

### Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



## Challenges: Finding a quality, affordable afterschool program:

Slightly more than 30 percent of all Utah households with school-age children (about 59,000) reported some type of challenge in accessing afterschool care (both formal and informal care). The types of challenges that parents had encountered in the past 12 months included cost, availability, hours of operation and a lack of knowledge of available programs.

All parents were asked whether they would change their child's afterschool care arrangement if they could. About 25 percent of households would like

"more activities to choose from" and 11 percent would like to access less expensive programs.

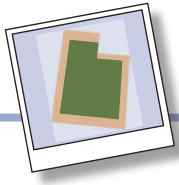
*[Child care center providers were also surveyed as part of this study. For these providers, the top challenges include finding and keeping qualified teachers, program cost/lack of funding, providing transportation and covering transportation costs, and providing enough and appropriate activities for children.]*

For the complete BBC Research Afterschool Study, please visit [jobs.utah.gov/occ/afterschoolstudy.pdf](http://jobs.utah.gov/occ/afterschoolstudy.pdf).

## Solutions

The WFL/OCC's Afterschool Program Specialist is here to help. Caroline Kueneman (see article, page 4) works with organizations throughout the state to improve the quality, supply and affordability of afterschool programs in Utah through grant programs, training, and other initiatives. The WFL/OCC also provides resources to help parents find quality afterschool care. A helpful web page, found at [jobs.utah.gov/occ/school.asp](http://jobs.utah.gov/occ/school.asp) provides some useful guidelines for learning how to choose the afterschool program that's right for you. Additional sources of information on before-school and afterschool care programs and providers include:

- ✓ **Child Care Resource and Referral Services (CCR&R):** These services help match families with child care providers in the area. You can find them at [www.uvsc.edu/ccrr/links.html](http://www.uvsc.edu/ccrr/links.html).
- ✓ **The Utah Afterschool Network (UAN)** is working on partnerships, finances and quality initiatives for afterschool programs. Director Shanni Call can be reached at (801) 355-3087 or (801) 602-2985. UAN is located at 747 E. South Temple, Suite 100, Salt Lake City. Email: [shannic@utahafterschool.org](mailto:shannic@utahafterschool.org).
- ✓ **Schools/School Districts:** Your child's principal is an excellent resource for questions about children. The principal will be acquainted with the range of programs available to students. The district office also may be a good resource for area programs.
- ✓ **Other Parents:** Your friends, neighbors, and co-workers, and the parents of your children's friends can be great sources of information on school-age care programs.
- ✓ **Local Government:** Many community governments have youth program departments that may be a good resource.
- ✓ **Special Needs:** Finding quality before-school and afterschool care can be particularly challenging for those whose children have special emotional or physical needs. Often, you can get recommendations from local social service agencies like Easter Seals, the Utah Parent Center, local county recreation programs, the school district's special education director or your child's school principal or special education teachers.



## The Wide Angle

Here are some useful links to help you zoom in on afterschool advocates, organizations, and resources:

- AfterSchool Utah! Association [www.afterschoolutah.org](http://www.afterschoolutah.org)
- Afterschool Scene [www.afterschoolscene.com](http://www.afterschoolscene.com)
- Afterschool Alliance [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers [www.usoe.k12.ut.us/adulted/21CCLC](http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/adulted/21CCLC)
- Afterschool.gov <http://afterschool.gov>

## Portrait: Caroline Kueneman ~ Afterschool Program Specialist

Caroline Kueneman joined the Office of Work & Family Life in 2000. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1970, and worked in international education and rural development for twelve years. She returned to the U.S. from Brazil to earn her M.Ed. in organizational development from the University of California – Davis in 1989. Caroline began work as a child care center licenser for the Utah Department of Human Services in 1990. In that role, she licensed child care centers, youth treatment programs, and adoption agencies.

As Afterschool Program Specialist, Caroline works with the AfterSchool Utah! Association on quality afterschool initiatives, with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Forum for program development, and

with the Utah Afterschool Network on initiatives to help sustain quality afterschool programs throughout Utah. This includes the annual Lights On! Afterschool declaration signed by the governor. Caroline also administers more than a million dollars in direct Youth Connections grants that are funding 55 afterschool programs, serving more than 6,000 kids in before-school and afterschool programs.

She is married and has raised four children. For fun and relaxation, Caroline plays standup bass fiddle and sings vocal leads and harmony in a bluegrass band called *Tangle Ridge*.



Office of Work & Family Life  
Department of Workforce Services  
140 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

